

Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



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Oct. 12, 2001

the inside Scoop

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87th Talons defeat 47th OSS in flag football game.

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CFC progress:

\$70,000

\$60,634 Currently raised

\$60,000

\$50,950 Wing goal

\$50,000

\$40,000

\$30,000

\$20,000



Air Power

Quote of the Week

"...No one knows exactly what air fighting will be like in the future. We can't say anything will stay as it is, but we also can't be certain the future will conform to particular theories, which so often, between the wars, have proved wrong."

—Brig. Gen. Robin Olds

A legend visits base

By 2nd Lt. Jessica Miller

Public affairs

Retired Brig. Gen. Robin Olds, a triple ace and aviation legend, will speak today at 3:30 p.m. in the Operations Training Complex auditorium for the base's first Aerospace Power Call.

This and future Aerospace Power Calls will bring in outside speakers with an Air Force-level perspective and will expose base people to figures who have blazed the trail for all airmen, as well as those leading the Air Force into the future.

"I firmly believe airmen who want to be considered professionals have an obligation to pursue a broad education on the Air Force — past,

See 'Legend,' page 4



Photo by Airman Timothy J. Stein

Flame douser

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Ramelli, Laughlin Fire Department fire protection crew chief, teaches his daughter Kathleen Ramelli, 4, fire safety during a fire extinguisher demonstration at the fire department Wednesday. The demonstration was part of Fire Prevention Week. The base fire department will also host a reading session from 8:30 to 10 a.m. today at Cardwell Elementary School in Del Rio and will have displays and pass out handouts from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday at the Laughlin commissary.

Attacks hit targets; humanitarian mission continues

Compiled from staff reports

As military strikes continued Wednesday against the Al Qaeda terrorist network and the Taliban in Afghanistan, President Bush made clear that terrorists in other countries also have been targeted.

Department of Defense officials said Air Force and Navy planes hit six military targets in Afghanistan. Aircraft continued to hammer at airfields, surface-to-air missile sites, Al Qaeda forces and communications sites. Officials said five to eight land-based bombers and eight to 10 naval strike aircraft participated in the attacks. No sea-launched cruise missiles were used.

Officials said U.S. aircraft hit Taliban military targets in daylight attacks. The earlier night strikes have suppressed anti-aircraft defenses enough to give the United States air supremacy over Afghanistan, they said.

"We are in a phase right now that involves the Taliban, that involves Afghanistan and the terrorists who are being harbored there," said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer. "I'm not going to go beyond that and give any indications whatsoever about any possible additional operations, whether they exist or don't."

Earlier in the day, President Bush unveiled a new "22 Most Wanted Terrorists List" at FBI headquarters

in Washington. While Osama bin Laden heads the list, it also contains the names and photos of suspected terrorists working out of such countries as Lebanon and the Philippines.

Two Air Force C-17s continued dropping humanitarian daily rations to Afghan refugees in the northeast of the country, near the border town of Shebergan. A Taliban representative said Afghans are burning the rations. Defense Department officials said they have no reports of that.

Many refugees are saying they're looking forward to returning to Afghanistan, said Fleischer. They know that they're going to be fed when they return, because they understand U.S. motives are to help the Afghanistan people.



Commanders' Corner

Col. John Betts

47th Support Group commander

Who I am: servant, patriot, soldier

"When are ya gettin' out?"

This is a common question for any military member, and our current emphasis on retention got me thinking. Why do I "stay in"?

I think a rather complex set of reasons leads to the fact that I "stay in" because of who I am. This is my personal perspective, and I certainly don't intend to suggest this applies across the board, but it might resonate with a few.

My Christian faith makes me a servant. I serve my country and fellow man through the Air Force. Of course, there are many other ways to serve, most of which do not include the inherent purpose of "breaking things and killing people." But I am proud of my years of service on the frontlines of the potential nuclear battlefield, providing the deterrent umbrella under which democracy triumphed and faith flourished. And I continue to serve today to help make

our Air Force a dominant fighting force that continues to protect our freedom and democratic values.

My heritage makes me patriot. I come from a family in which every physically capable male "did his time" in the service, fulfilling an assumed obligation, up to and including Vietnam (by the way, my son is a Marine corporal). Patriots serve their country in many ways, and not necessarily in the service until there is a clear and present danger. But I am compelled to actively serve by the example of our founding fathers who pledged to commit their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to this great enterprise we now call America. I am ready to die for our country; how can I not live for our country?

My "martial spirit" makes me a soldier. I feel a kindred spirit, a sense of brotherhood, as I look at the ghostly faces of the troopers in the

photographs at Fort Clark's museum. As I wander the field at Gettysburg, I marvel at the courage and devotion to a greater cause that emboldens men to charge glistening steel bayonets. I feel a sense of purpose and a willingness to sacrifice, to be part of something bigger than myself, something really worthwhile. Being part of the force that stays between the innocent and evil in the world is extremely worthwhile to me. It is a noble calling, the profession of arms, and I feel strangely "at home" in the military.

We are all given different gifts, different abilities, and we each fulfill our different obligations in different ways. For me, my duty is to serve as long as the Air Force has use for my unique set of abilities.

With the heart of servant, the soul of a patriot, and the spirit of a soldier, it is not "Why do I stay in?" but rather "How could I possibly ever get out?"

Top Three Talk



By Master Sgt. Mario Curiel

47th Contracting Squadron contract administrator

One person makes all the difference

When I joined the Air Force in November 1984, I really did not know what I wanted to do with my life. I thought I would come in for four years, learn a skill, get out and find a job.

At my first duty station, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., I met the person who would have a tremendous positive impact on my Air Force career and life. It's incredible how much influence one person can have on the life of another person; for me, that person was Tech. Sgt. Sherick.

He was the noncommissioned of-

ficer in charge of stock control in base supply. He was my mentor long before the Air Force adopted the mentor program.

Sherick had qualities I try to imitate to this day. He is one of the reasons I stayed in the Air Force.

One of the most striking features of Sherick was the way he wore his uniform. He had pride wearing it, and it showed. I, on the other hand, did not care at that time because I was only "passing through." On my first encounter with him, he explained that first impressions last a long time and that even if I did not care about

the way my uniform looked, he did and to please take a little pride in wearing it or he would arrange for me not to wear it at all.

The impressive thing about the conversation was that he did not yell, scream or even raise his voice. He got his point across by being professional and respecting me as an airman. That conversation was the beginning of my mentorship.

I studied his moves, the way he dealt with people and how he handled everyday problems. Even though I

See 'Mentor,' page 3

Border Eagle



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Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to:
bradley.pettit@laughlin.af.mil
timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil

"Excellence – not our goal, but our standard."

– 47th FTW motto

FPCON Charlie

Laughlin is currently in Force Protection Condition Charlie, which indicates terrorist activity against personnel or installations is imminent.

Command continues with more awareness

By Gen. Hal Hornburg

AETC commander

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE – The events that occurred the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, will be forever embedded in the hearts and minds of all Americans. It was a powerful and emotional blow that awakened us to the fact that we – the United States – are not excluded from terror.

As you know, this devastation has placed the armed forces in a heightened state of alert in defense of our homeland. Additionally, the commander-in-chief has announced intentions to not only punish the perpetrators of these barbaric attacks but also to eradicate terrorism altogether.

Now, the question is: What does this mean for Air Education and Training Command? The clear message for AETC is that our mission must continue on its course to replenish our Air Force's

combat capabilities. In doing so, the mission must be carried out steadily, precisely and professionally – all the while maintaining our increased security status. In other words, we must keep doing what we've been doing, but with a greater sense of awareness and readiness.

AETC has already been called upon to participate in Department of Defense efforts, and you can bet we will be called upon again. We swore to defend our country, and we will. But our day-to-day routines have to be adjusted to carry out this long and sustained effort. In doing this, never lose sight of the fact that safety is paramount.

With all of us facing long lines at the gates, be sure to watch your driving habits. Don't get complacent sitting in line, waiting to enter the base and forget what is going on around you. Be sure to plan more time for travel, vary your routes and always maintain your situational awareness, both on and off base. Now would be a good time to pull

out your personal protection guide and review its procedures. Be sure to talk with your family about how they, too, should maintain situational awareness.

Commanders, supervisors and top three, I encourage you to continue supporting your airmen by attending Airman Leadership School, NCO Academy, Squadron Officer School, technical and flying training graduations. Quality airmen – motivated and trained to be the best – are our products, and without them, we are irrelevant.

Airmen, each and every one of you is vital to the success of our command and America's Air Force. Be sure to take time to maintain your personal spiritual, physical and emotional states, as well as those of your families, in order to stay motivated and alert during these difficult times.

Our Air Force and our nation depend on us. Stay focused. Stay motivated. Stay safe, and stay ready!

'Mentor,' from page 2

worked with him for only one year, he gave me advice I still use to this day.

He told me, "Before you get out

of the Air Force go home, get a piece of paper and write two lists of things, label the first one BAD and the second one GOOD. Under the appropriate heading write down everything

good and bad about the Air Force, be honest to yourself and get all the facts. If you decide to get out, good luck; if you stay, I'll see you down the road."

I'm still wearing the uniform today because one NCO took time to mentor me. Remember that someone is looking at you. One person can make a difference!

Actionline

298-5351

timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a



Rick Rosborg
Col. Rick Rosborg
47 FTW commander

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Legal	298-5172
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810
Military Equal Opportunity	298-5400
Equal Employment Opportunity	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170

Question: I would like to ask why base power goes out so frequently on Sundays. It seems that, without fail, the power goes out around 12:30 p.m. on Sundays. When this happens, it knocks out the air-conditioning system in the enlisted dorms. Once the power goes out, the AC blows warm air and isn't fixed until Monday. Is there no one to fix the AC on Sundays?

Answer: These frequent power outages are largely because we live so far from our electrical power generating plants, whose offices

are in Corpus Christi, and these miles of wire are susceptible to many and varied types of abuses: weather, animals, birds, maintenance or mechanical failure.

When there is a power outage, most AC systems automatically shut down and must be manually reset. When this happens on the weekend, EAST/CE makes the call, and the EAST/CE technicians have a certain amount of time to respond, which varies depending on the temperature outside. Also, there is a series of switches across the base that must be manually reset, so it may take several hours to reset all of

them. Finally, the time lapse between the AC system's going off-line and getting reset means the water temperature has risen, so it takes time for the system to reach its proper cooling point.

Thanks to this being brought to our attention, the CE Energy Management Control System will more closely monitor AC connections to numerous facilities on the weekends, which will alarm when the systems get disconnected due to power outages. When this occurs, to ensure the response time is minimal, the EMCS operator will immediately call EAST/CE technicians to reset AC systems affected.



Photo by Airman Timothy J. Stein

School money

Tech. Sgt. Todd Draper (left), 47th Medical Group lab noncommissioned officer in charge, and Staff Sgt. Dennis Bense (right), Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight NCOIC, present a \$400 Noncommissioned Officers Association

scholarship check to Senior Airman Shaila Lane, 47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron journeyman, Oct. 5. Lane, along with eight others, submitted essays to the NCOA. Hers was chosen as the best, earning her the award.

AETC posts recruiter assignments on Web

Personnel officials at Randolph Air Force Base announced today that the latest information about recruiter assignments has been posted on the Air Education and Training Command Web site.

People interested in volunteering for recruiter duty should visit the site at www.aetc.randolph.af.mil/dp/recruiter/index.htm to check out

assignment locations, complete an online application and download other required documents.

The site is back in operation after three weeks of down time caused by Web problems, officials said.

Known as Enlisted Accession Recruiter assignments, the 62 positions available throughout the continental United States will be advertised through

Oct. 21, said officials on the AETC Recruiter Assignments Team. Volunteers selected will report for recruiter duty in March and April.

For more information about recruiter duty, people can call DSN 487-4105 or e-mail questions to recruiter.assignments@randolph.af.mil.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

'Legend,' from page 1

present, future, doctrine, tactics and issues," said Col. Rick Rosborg, 47th Flying Training Wing commander. "Brig. Gen. Olds' contribution to the story of the U.S. Air Force is invaluable. He is a tactician without equal and is a tremendous role model. As airmen, we are all indebted to him."

Before retiring in 1973, Gen. Olds served 30 years in the Air Force and is credited with 17 aerial victories – an ace rating

requires only five – during World War II and the Vietnam War. He has flown the P-38 Lightning, P-51 Mustang, F-4 Phantom II and P-80 Shooting Star. Gen. Olds' many decorations include the Air Force Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star with three oak leaf clusters, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with five OLCs, and the Air Medal with 39 OLCs.

"Gen. Olds is our link to the past and bridge to our future," said Col. Herbert Foret,

47th FTW vice commander. "His personal experiences of leadership in combat provide each of us a unique experience from which we can learn."

Rosborg said he encourages all airmen of Team XL to attend today's event so they can take advantage of the rare opportunity to hear firsthand from an air power legend.

"We should be tremendously excited to hear this great airman speak," Rosborg said. "We'll undoubtedly benefit from his perspective."

Newsline

Med Group closes early

The 47th Medical Group will be closed for training from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday. The Family Practice Clinic will have sick call and routine appointments in the morning. Aerospace Medicine will operate sick call hours from 1 to 2 p.m. If you have an emergency, call 911. For urgent problems, call 298-6333 or 6341.

Hazardous waste pickup

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission will dispose of banned or unwanted pesticides, household hazardous waste, properly rinsed plastic pesticide containers, used motor oil, oil filters, and lead acid batteries free of charge from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday at the 4-H Show Barn on North Street.

For more information, call 774-7591.

Red Cross seeks volunteers

The Del Rio branch of the American Red Cross is in need of volunteers in the 47th Medical Group's clinic record section.

Child care reimbursement is an allowable compensation for volunteer time should parents at home with a child desire to apply.

For more information, call Jane Pratt at 298-6315 or come to the Red Cross office in Room 373 in the Laughlin clinic.

Cessation classes set

The next Tobacco Cessation Course begins Oct. 23. Classes will be held Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the Health and Wellness Center conference room.

Call Maj. Nina Watson at 298-6464 or Tech Sgt. Raymond Fernandez at 298-6463 for details.

OSC hosts tasting social

The Officers Spouses Club will host a wine and cheese tasting social at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Club XL ballroom. Cost is \$15 per person.

R.S.V.P. to Jackie Oberdieck at 298-7201.

Stop-Loss Web site created

The Air Force Personnel Center has established a Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/stoploss.htm that contains information and answers to frequently asked questions regarding the Stop-Loss program.

If your question isn't addressed there, please call 2nd Lt. Kelly Baker at 298-5487 or Alma Garcia at 298-4393.



Please don't forget to recycle this newspaper





Cool deal

Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

(From left) Airman 1st Class William Burch and Airman Justin Schank, enlisted dorm bay orderlies, move the first of 176 apartment-sized refrigerators into an enlisted dorm room Oct. 5. One refrigerator is expected to be installed in every dorm room by the end of October. Ceiling fans have also been ordered and will arrive in the near future.

Air Force Television News airs on access channel

The Oct. 1 edition of Air Force Television News is currently being aired on the commander's access channel, local cable channel 34. Spotlighted issues are:

- Airmen assigned to Pentagon help in rescue, recovery efforts
- Air Force medical teams respond to World Trade Center attack
- Air Force steps up security in wake of terrorist attacks
- Overseas bases go on heightened alert; local communities respond
- Little-known Air Force team puts forensics training to good use
- Texas Air Force base uses new approach

to drug crackdown

- Air Force takes action on two efforts to privatize operations
- Air Force paint shop uses innovative approach to painting
- Air National Guard paint shop still does it the old-fashioned way
- First of more than 1,000 recruiting offices gets face-lift
- Air Force One retired in California
- Pentagon attack as seen through the eyes of an Air Force wife

Send questions and comments to aftvnews@afnews.af.mil.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Yard of the Month winners named

Compiled from staff reports

Three base members were recently recognized for having the best-looking yards on base for the month of September.

Members of the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron note well-maintained yards in base housing during monthly inspections. Those yards are then reported to Col. John M.

Betts, 47th Support Group commander, who determines the winners. They are:

Mobile Home Park

1st Lt. Tammy Ward

Enlisted housing

Staff Sgt. Shane and Susan MacPhearson

Officer housing

Lt. Col. Scott and Linda Wiebe



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Officials release F-16 accident report

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. — Air Force investigators determined that G-induced loss of consciousness led to the crash of an F-16 Fighting Falcon off the coast of South Carolina July 6.

The pilot, Capt. Mitchell A Bulmann, suffered fatal injuries while ejecting from the aircraft. He was on a training mission at the time of the accident. The aircraft was assigned to the 77th Fighter Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

There is clear and convincing evidence that the pilot suffered from G-LOC, resulting in the aircraft being put into unrecoverable flight parameters, investigators said in a report released Oct. 5. Although Bulmann regained consciousness long enough to eject, his aircraft was at a dangerous airspeed and position for ejection, resulting in fatal injuries.

The aircraft crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Charleston, S.C., and was destroyed. The accident occurred during a sequence of basic flight maneuvers, investigators said.

Historical experience with G-LOC incidents indicates that pilots suffering from it are incapacitated for an average of 24 seconds, Air Combat Command officials said. During that time, the victim may be totally unresponsive to external inputs. Bulmann's aircraft was the second aircraft in a formation of four F-16s.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Celebrating heritage

(From left) Menie Aseron, Fiesta Community Center director, Col. Herb Foret, 47th Flying Training Wing vice commander, and Belia Stewart, Laughlin Hispanic Heritage Committee chairperson, kick off a Hispanic Heritage breakfast at the Fiesta Community

Center Oct. 5. The breakfast was held to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. A Hispanic Heritage luncheon is also scheduled for 11:30 a.m. today at Club XL. For more information, call Belia Stewart at 298-5291.

National Guard steps in to help with airport security



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Savage

Senior Airman Emery Blanchard, Utah Air National Guard's 151st Security Forces Squadron, keeps an eye out for any suspicious activity at the Salt Lake City International Airport. President Bush announced recently that National Guard troops would reinforce security crews at 422 of America's largest civilian airports for the next four to six months.

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

President Bush announced recently that National Guard troops would reinforce security crews at 422 of America's civilian airports for the next four to six months.

The Federal Aviation Administration has asked for about 5,000 troops in what is considered a historic mission for Guard forces. Other guardsmen, many of them civilian police officers, began reporting for airport duty after completing FAA security training and a weapons refresher course.

People have been baking cookies and buying coffee for the guardsmen. Many have said, "God bless you," because they feel good about flying now that the Guard is on the scene.

Such are the early returns from New Mexico and other places where Guard units quickly stepped in to give airports time to improve their security procedures and systems.

The New Mexico operation also includes Army guardsmen and keeps about 20 people at the airports, but the force can quickly multiply in an emergency. Each governor can decide which Guard troops to deploy and what they will actually do. But the job is universally the same — providing a military presence. Duties include monitoring and reinforcing security checkpoints, monitoring the alertness and performance of the civilian screeners, and assisting screeners, supervisors and airport police as required.

Guard officials pointed out these tours of duty are different from the state active duty that Guard troops perform while helping civil authorities deal with wildfires, floods and other domestic emergencies. Those pulling airport security duty will remain under their state governor's command and control, but the federal government covers their pay and benefits.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Airmen experience war in Afghanistan

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – “Like being a football player at the Super Bowl” is how one Air Force bombardier described being part of the initial wave of offensive strikes in America’s war on terrorism.

“I was honored to act in the service of my country for defending freedom for all people,” said “Vinnie,” the B-1 bomber offensive systems officer who participated in Sunday strikes on Afghanistan.

Late Sunday, the Air Force arranged for reporters to speak to five Air Force officers who took part in the bombing. Security concerns dictated that the officers only be identified by their call signs and that their location not be disclosed.

Vinnie described troops at the base he took off from lining the tarmac waving flags as the jets took off.

“I think everybody, no matter what job they had, came out to support the launch of the jets,” he said. “It was very patriotic. We felt very proud.”

Pride in America and in a job well done was the overriding theme in the officers’ remarks.

“The president counted on us to do a job, and the [American] people counted on us to do a job tonight,” said “Doc,” a radar officer aboard a B-52 bomber. “Whether you’re from Manhattan or the

“You never want to be unprepared. That’s why you train to the most rigorous standards as possible.”

“Doc”
B-52 radio officer

Washington, D.C. area, it doesn’t really matter. We’re all Americans, and we’re all in this together.”

By these airmen’s accounts, the evening’s events went as they’d hoped – their training and experience pulled them safely through.

“It all came together because we train for this,” said “Woodstock,” a B-52 pilot. “This is what the American citizens expect us to be able to do, and in peacetime we prepare for these eventualities.”

He said all the moving parts, from their intelligence information to their ground crews, came together like a “finely oiled machine.”

Vinnie said he believes successful training also kept nerves from detracting from their missions.

“Everybody [feels nervous], but the purpose overrides that, and the mission overrides that,” he said. “That’s what you’re taught every day.”

Just because they returned to base safely doesn’t mean the flights were risk-free. The planes did come under anti-aircraft fire over Afghanistan.

“My crews didn’t encounter any threat that we weren’t prepared to deal with,” Woodstock said.

Vinnie said the mission wasn’t as difficult as the training scenarios they work through.

Doc agreed.

“You never want to be unprepared,” he said. “That’s why you train to the most rigorous standards as possible.”

The men said the mission was devoid of the cockpit and cabin chit-chat and outbursts often portrayed in the movies.

“We keep the cockpit professional and quiet. That’s the way we do business,” Vinnie said.

Something different about the evening stood out in each man’s mind. Woodstock noted that someone had recently painted “NYPD – We Remember” on the nose of one of the B-52s used in the bombing run.

“Stinky,” a tanker pilot, said he remembered hearing part of President Bush’s address to the nation while out on his mission.

“It kind of made chills go up my back,” he said. “[It] made me real proud to be an American, proud to be in the military.”

Base works to end home violence

By Capt. Susan Black
Family Advocacy chief

A lot of people may wonder why a month is set aside for domestic violence.

The reason for this month of awareness stems from a Surgeon General report, which cited domestic violence as the leading cause of injury for women between the ages of 15 and 44.

The United States military is not exempt from this trend. The armed forces information service reported last year that 3 to 4 million American women are beaten by their partners each year. The Department of Defense reported 12,043 substantiated cases of domestic violence.

What does this mean? It

means this is a community problem that no one person or agency can solve by itself.

The Air Force Family Advocacy Program has reported that the Air Force rates for domestic violence is declining. They attribute this to prevention and treatment. This means educating and informing Air Force personnel on domestic violence and requiring that all family maltreatment be reported to the unit family advocacy program. Then, with the commanders’ and first sergeants’ support, intervening early in the violence process has made a difference.

What can make a larger difference? Community involvement can. This year, the Laughlin Air Force Base Family Advocacy Program is

joining with local Del Rio agencies for a conference to raise awareness of laws and procedures for responding to domestic violence and the availability of services for victims, offenders and their families. This conference will be held Oct. 22 at the Del Rio Civic Center. Local civilian and military dignitaries will be invited. The purpose is to raise awareness and cooperation between all the agencies and community leaders to prevent and treat domestic violence.

If you see violence in progress, call 911. If you know of someone who is afraid of, or is being hurt by their partner, report it to Family Advocacy Program at 298-6422. Together, we do make a difference.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic	Muslim
Sunday	Dr. Mostafa Salama, call 768-9200
- Mass, 9:30 a.m.	
- Confession by appointment	Protestant
- Sunday school, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday
- Little Rock Scripture Study, 11 a.m. in Chapel Fellowship Hall	- Adult Sunday school, 9 - 10:30 a.m.
Thursday	- General worship, 11 a.m.
- Choir, 6 p.m.	Wednesday
	- Women's Bible Study, 12:30-2:15 p.m.
Jewish	at chapel
Max Stool, call 775-4519	- Choir, 7 p.m. at chapel

For more information on chapel
events and services, call 298-5111.

Interested in the Air Force?

*Call Del Rio's Air Force recruiter
at 774-0911.*

Islam a peaceful religion

By Staff Sgt. Amy Parr
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — A new word was introduced at the United Nations Summit on Racism in September — “Islamophobia,” meaning the fear of Islam and Muslims.

This new word represents the fear felt by some who link all people of Islamic faith to the terrorists who hijacked planes and crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The best way for people to overcome those fears is to be informed, said Capt. Hamza Al-Mubarak, a Muslim chaplain assigned to the 81st Training Wing, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

“Ignorance and hate have already cost us thousands of lives,” he said. “Get the information [about Islam] and pass it on to someone you know.” He said the Quran does not condone acts of terrorism.

“Islam is a religion of mercy and peace; it does not permit or encourage terrorism,” Al-Mubarak said.

Killing the weak, infants, women and the elderly, and destroying property are considered serious crimes in Islam, said H.E. Shaikh Salih bin Muhammad Al-Luheidan, chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in a statement after the Sept. 11 attacks.

“Killing innocent people is by itself a grave crime, quite apart from terrorizing and committing crimes against infants and women,” he said. “Such acts do no honor to he who commits them, even if he claims to be a Muslim.”

While some terrorists claim to be Muslim and believe their acts will pave the

way for an Islamic revival and a return to the rule of Islam’s glorious law, the majority of Muslims do not feel that way, Al-Mubarak said.

Telling a story told by a Muslim prophet, he said, “Bear in mind what the Prophet Muhammed said. ‘Do not be delighted by the action of anyone until you see how he ends up.’ So, for example, what is the end of a suicide bomber? A leg here and an arm there. How can we be delighted by such an end?”

“What really hammers the final nail in the coffin of this act is that it is suicide, something which is clearly forbidden in Islam,” he said. “The messenger of God, Prophet Mohammed said, ‘he who kills himself with anything, God will torment him with that in the fire of hell.’

“Some are under the misconception that by killing oneself for an Islamic cause, one commits an act which deserves paradise,” Al-Mubarak said. “The taking of one life which Allah has given as a trust to the human is a great sin. Likewise, the taking of other lives, which is so often the case, is also forbidden as human life is indeed precious.

“Thus, all types of extremities such as hostage taking, hijacking and planting bombs in public places are clearly forbidden in Islam,” he said.

Al-Mubarak, one of only two Muslim Air Force chaplains, said since the attacks he has spent countless hours answering questions about Islam and trying to educate people.

“To assume that all Muslims are anti-American is nonsense,” he said. “There

are millions of Muslims in our country who are ready and willing to fight in the cause of justice and to preserve the American way of life.

“Many Muslim military members have and are serving honorably in the military today in support of our war effort against terrorism,” he said.

But still, “Islamophobia” exists. Al-Mubarak said there are many Muslims in the military who choose to place a code of “no religious preference” in their personnel records. He said they do this in part out of fear of reprisals because of their faith.

“Some individuals in the United States want instant justice and will lash out at anyone who looks or dresses like a Muslim or an Arab,” he said. “Some Muslim members have expressed fear of retaliation, not in regards to openly discussing the Islamic faith, but in regards to dress and appearance, such as stereotypical look of a Muslim or resembling someone from the Middle East.

“It is a difficult time,” Al-Mubarak said. “I personally felt ashamed that someone claiming to be a Muslim did this in the name of God. This is not Islam nor the nature of a Muslim. We all feel the sorrow and loss from this tragedy. Being Muslim does not diminish the fact that we are human and understand the frailties of life and realize how many lives were lost and ruined because of one’s ideology and personal and religious belief. Our deepest sympathy goes out to everyone affected by the Sept. 11 tragedy.”

For more information about Islam, contact a local chaplain.

The *XLer*



Photo by Airman Timothy J. Stein

Tech. Sgt. Rory Fleury
47th Flying Training Wing
Command Post superintendent

Hometown: New Orleans, La.
Family: Son, Rory Jr., 16; daughter, Terryal, 14
Time at Laughlin: 2 years
Time in service: 19 years
Name one way to improve life at Laughlin: Get more noncommissioned officers with experience
Greatest accomplishment: Sticking this job out for 20 years
Hobbies: Golf, weight lifting and swimming
Bad habit: Biting my fingernails
Favorite film or book: The Matrix
Favorite band or musician: Tina Turner
If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? President Bush. I'd like to ask him to let the military be exempt from paying taxes.

Where are they now?

Name: Capt. Chris McCarthy
Class/date of graduation from Laughlin: Class 98-03, Dec. 16, 1997
Aircraft you now fly and base you are stationed at: F-15C, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho
Mission of your current aircraft? Air superiority
What do you like most about your current aircraft? Air-to-air missions
What do you dislike most about your current aircraft? It's getting old, and there is decreased funding due to the F-22 program
What was the most important thing you learned at Laughlin besides learning to fly? What a good flight commander should be
What is your most memorable experience from Laughlin? Assignment night
What advice would you give SUPT students at Laughlin? Strive to fly fighters, and be the best in whatever plane you're flying



(Air Force courtesy photo)

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87th Talons defeat 47th OSS in overtime game

By Airman Timothy J. Stein

Staff writer

In an overtime game, the 87th Flying Training Squadron Talons defeated the 47th Operation Support Squadron, 21-14, in a flag football game Wednesday night here.

The Talons won the hard fought game in overtime when quarterback Corey Christoffer threw a 24-yard touchdown pass to receiver David Pryor and then stopped OSS from scoring on their overtime possession.

The game started in OSS's favor when, on the second play from scrimmage, receiver Gary Battiste caught a pass from quarterback Blane Morgan and ran 40 yards for a touchdown. OSS

completed the two-point conversion to go up 8-0.

Early in the second half the Talons got on the scoreboard when receiver Lee Howard caught a six-yard pass from Christoffer, but a missed two-point conversion left OSS up by a score of 8-6.

The Talon defense forced OSS to punt after three plays on the next possession. The Talon's next drive resulted in another touchdown pass, this time to Dave Pryor. A successful two-point conversion gave the Talons a 14-6 lead.

OSS wasn't going to go down without a fight, however. With three minutes left in the game, Morgan put together a 67-yard drive resulting in a touchdown that tied the game at 14. But, OSS failed to take the lead when they missed the two-

point conversion.

The Talons got the ball back once more but failed to score, sending the game into overtime.

In overtime each team is given four plays from their opponent's 40-yard line to gain yards or score. The team with the most yards or points after their attempt wins the game. In the Talons' possession, Chrisoffer hit Pryor with the 24-yard touchdown strike. The extra-point kick made the score 21-14.

Talon defenseman Mike Shepherd intercepted Morgan's first pass on OSS's overtime attempt to seal the victory for the Talons.

The victory brings the Talons' record to 4-2, tying them with the OSS squad for second place in the NFC behind the LSI Enforcers.

Sports and Health briefs

Aerobics set for October

The XL Fitness Center is offering aerobics throughout October. Classes are held Monday at 5 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday at 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., and Friday at 5 p.m.

For details, call Tech. Sgt. Rick Horn at 298-4340.

Speed competition scheduled

The XL Fitness Center is hosting the Laughlin Air Force Base Fastest Man/Woman competition Oct. 20 at noon. The event will consist of 50-, 100-, 200-, and 400-meter-races.

For more information, call the XL Fitness Center at 298-5251.

Football Standings

(As of Thursday)

AFC			NFC		
Team	W	L	Team	W	L
Misfits	5	0	LSI Enforcers	7	0
47 CES	4	2	47 OSS	4	2
LCSAM	2	4	87 Talons	4	2
CS/CONS/SVS	1	5	84/85 Tweets	3	3
E. Panthers	0	10	86 Rios Lobos	1	3

Scores

Tuesday

Misfits, 32 – CCS, 7
47 CES, 24 – Tweets, 0

Wednesday

Talons, 21 – 47 OSS, 14
Enforcers, 20 – 47 CES, 0
Tweets, 20 – LCSAM, 6

